[1st March 1930

Appendix I.

[Vide answer to question No. 1507 asked by Mr. A. B. Shetty at the meeting of the Legislative Council held on the 1st March 1930, page 348 supra.]

Proceedings of the Commissioner of Excise, R. No. 2380-Abk., dated the 9th October 1929.

[*Subject.*—Health Propaganda—Co-operation of the Excise Department with the Central Propaganda Board and District Committees—Instructions issued.]

The attention of all Assistant Commissioners and Inspectors is drawn to G.O. No. 1597, P.H., dated 26th June 1929, communicated with C.P. No. 1459-Abk./29, dated 3rd July 1929, sanctioning the formation of the Central Propaganda Board and District Committees with the object of creating active public opinion against the use of alcoholic liquors and intoxicating drugs. Doubts exist in some non-official quarters whether the District Committees will have the co-operation of the officers of the Excise Department in their work. The Chairman of a District Committee has expressed to the Commissioner his view that much drinking is due to breaches of rules about sale and possession and is afraid that if he brings cases to notice he may earn the dislike and distrust of departmental subordinates who are likely to get into trouble.

2. The Commissioner desires to impress on all ranks of the department that the Government are genuinely anxious to put a stop to excessive drinking and to encourage temperance and abstinence in every way—even at the expense of revenue—*provided only that illicit liquor does not take the place of licit.* All officers are therefore expected to co-operate with the Central Board and District Committees that are trying to expose and prevent illicit sales, etc. These bodies are not to be regarded as the tendency may be to regard them as the natural enemies of the department. All officers should remember that not only crimes affecting the revenue should be prevented and detected but that *all* conditions of licences many of which have been framed in the interests of public morality should be rigorously enforced.

3. The object of the department should *not* be to show an increase of revenue at all costs. It should be first and foremost to see that all the provisions of law are strictly carried out and that the consumption of liquor is confined entirely to licit liquor licitly possessed and sold. Provided these aims are achieved, the less liquor of all kinds that is consumed, the better.